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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the below date:  
Date: November 8, 2010 Name: Tadashi Horie, Reg. No. 40,437 Signature: Tadashi H.

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Satoru Adachi et al. )  
Serial No. 10/680,205 )  
Filing Date: October 8, 2003 ) Examiner: Patel, Jayesh A.  
For: IMAGE ENCODING METHOD, IMAGE ) Group Art Unit No. 2624  
DECODING METHOD, IMAGE ) Confirmation No. 7459  
ENCODING APPARATUS, IMAGE )  
DECODING APPARATUS, IMAGE )  
ENCODING PROGRAM, AND IMAGE )  
DECODING PROGRAM )  
Attorney Docket No.: 9683/261 )

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In reply to the Final Office Action dated August 16, 2010, please consider the following Amendments and Remarks:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

OK to Enter.  
JP 11/19/2010